U.S. Patent and Trademark Office PTOL-37 (Rev. 08-06)

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## **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention as a whole including a heating means including a resistor having two segments made of different metal alloys, joined on one of their ends to form a thermocouple, the joint of said segments being placed in the center of an intake duct, in the context of a system for controlling intake air temperature in an internal combustion diesel engine suitable for heating intake air, controlling the temperature and knowing the flow rate of the airflow, the system comprising a module including heating means and a control circuit, said module being placed at each intake inlet in order to heat and control the temperature of the intake air up to a limit at which the temperature is maintained constant and independent of ambient temperature. Note that thermocouples are conventionally utilized to function as temperature sensors in heater control circuits rather than to function as the heating means itself.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marguerite J. McMahon whose telephone number is 571-272-4848. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 10am-6:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Cronin can be reached on 571-272-4536. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Marguerite McMahon Primary Examiner Art Unit 3747